

Hi Bill and Phil,

Since our FAR-B September meeting ended on the note that, perhaps, we should review our goals and objectives, I would like to make a few comments for consideration by the Goals and Objectives Committee.

First, I believe that our goals should be simple: To support the research, educational, and outreach programs of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. This will give us the flexibility to adjust to any unexpected needs, such as last year's tornado, without going outside of the boundaries that have been defined to our membership.

Similarly, I feel that our specific objectives should also be simple in view of the limited resources (both financial and manpower) available to us. Following are my highest priority projects:

#### Research

1. George W. Irving Fellowship (not to exceed \$5,000 per recipient unless our budget increases from some unexpected source such as industry contributions).
2. Administrator's Distinguished Speaker Program (\$500 per event to be used at the discretion of the BARC Committee).
3. Special requests from scientists for equipment, summer interns, or other unforeseen, unfunded needs (this could also include refreshments for the occasional distinguished visitor to a Research Unit not exceed \$250).

#### Education

1. Congressional Testimony (this does not require hard dollars but a hell of a lot of work from Jim Butcher with assistance from Charles Dickson and other FAR-B members).
2. Special events such as Black History Month, etc., etc. (not to exceed \$100 per event with the condition that a part of the program be devoted to recognizing the contributions of an appropriate scientist or agriculturist).
3. Group visits to the National Visitors Center (not to exceed \$250 per event or \$1,000 per year).

#### Outreach

1. Beltsville Invitational (not to exceed \$500 per year at the discretion of the Chairperson).
2. Grade school visits to National Visitors Center (\$250 per visit for use at the discretion of the Chairperson).
3. Another outreach activity to be determined (not to exceed \$500 per year).

I was disappointed that FAR-B was not formally recognized as a co-sponsor of the most recent Distinguished Speaker Program and feel that this is absolutely necessary for us to survive and grow. Such recognition should be made a condition of any award that





FAR-B makes. I believe that we should no longer contribute to the beautification of BARC property - our involvement immediately after the tornado was very appropriate but sufficient time has now passed for the administration to commit hard dollars for grounds and maintenance. Finally, I do not believe that FAR-B should be viewed as the Area Director's entertainment fund. Although we should continue to make \$500 per year available for light refreshments for distinguished visitors, we should not be expected to pay for meals or major events.

After discussion of goals and objectives at our next Board meeting and approval by Board Members, I believe that our plan should be made available to the Area Director for comment. When everyone is happy, this information should be printed in our next Membership Directory.

Just a few ideas to activate the gray cells. Cheers.

Ralph

cc: Jim Butcher, Darwin Murrell





## Proposal

### The FAR-B Innovative Idea Award

#### Background

The FAR-B Innovative Idea Award is proposed as a new initiative to provide seed money for implementation of innovative ideas by employees of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The funds provided by the award would be used to initiate work on new, innovative projects for which adequate federal funding is not immediately available. It is envisioned that, should an innovative idea show particular promise, its further development would be supported by base funding from BARC.

What better way to support agricultural research than by fostering innovation? Perhaps, there is a moldboard plow or a sterile insect technique out there waiting to be discovered but lacking start up funding.

#### Amount of Award

The FAR-B Innovative Idea Award would be a one-time only contribution of \$1,000 to BARC for use by the award recipient in order to initiate work on an innovative idea. Up to five such awards would be made in each calendar year depending on availability of FAR-B funds and number of applications.

#### Eligibility and Application

Any BARC employee would be eligible for the award in one of four categories: (1) Scientific (a novel, untested scientific theory); (2) Technical (a new or modified technique to use in research); (3) Administrative (a practical improvement of an administrative procedure); and (4) Grounds (a better way of carrying out grounds and maintenance responsibilities). Applicants would be required to submit a free form application not to exceed two pages. The application would include a statement from applicants first line supervisor agreeing to the request.

#### Award Selection

The FAR-B President would appoint three Board Members (one of whom would be the FAR-B Treasurer) to review applications on an *ad hoc* basis and select award recipients. The Area Director would be invited to appoint an *ex officio* member to the selection committee.

#### Notification

Awardees would be notified by the FAR-B President and those whose proposals were not selected encouraged to submit future innovative ideas. Awardees and their projects would be duly noted in the FAR-B News and at the FAR-B Annual Meeting.





## DRAFT

### A FAR-B Grants/Awards Analysis With Recommendations for Priorities

Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville, Inc. (FAR-B) was established in 1985 as a qualified tax-exempt volunteer organization with the primary goal of assisting scientists at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) to conduct national and international professional meetings. FAR-B served this role by accepting registration fees from meeting attendees (a function not readily available to Federal employees) and paying the various expenses associated with the meetings. Since then, FAR-B's original goal has been expanded to encompass the broad objectives of promoting research, educational, and outreach programs of BARC. Specifically, FAR-B: disseminates information regarding unique expertise of BARC scientists and their research accomplishments; organizes, sponsors, and finances major symposia, scientific seminars, and field days; generates funds to upgrade research equipment and facilities; presents information and expert testimony to the U.S. Congress and others to enhance funding for BARC; presents to local students educational programs that focus on outstanding research conducted at BARC; and sponsors the Innovative Idea Award Program to provide BARC employees with seed money to initiate work that lacks Federal funding. In addition, FAR-B has sponsored summer interns, contributed to grade school and high school science-related programs, cosponsored tours of BARC, cosponsored receptions for dignitaries at various official functions, and hosted receptions for visiting scientists conducting in-depth reviews of research laboratories. The many activities carried out by FAR-B are made possible through income derived from membership dues, contributions, interest, dividends, handling fees for the Systematic Entomology Laboratory Fund, the Combined Federal Campaign, and workshop overhead. The proposed FAR-B budget for 2006 includes income of \$31,000 with \$107,600 in reserve funds.

In order to provide some assistance to BARC in overcoming Federal budget reductions anticipated for at least the next two fiscal years, it is incumbent upon FAR-B to reassess the importance of each of its many programs and determine where best to allocate financial resources through grants and awards programs. To achieve this end, following is a prioritized list of grants and awards that should be funded by FAR-B as resources permit.

#### *1. Professional travel awards*

- a. A total of \$20,000 proportionately allocated according to SYs to each of the three Institutes (\$7,000 to Animal and Natural Resources; \$4,000 to Human Nutrition; and \$9,000 to Plant Sciences).
- b. Funds would be used specifically for scientist travel to cooperating laboratories and professional meetings.
- c. The funds would be taken from FAR-B Reserves for the first year and would be distributed by the Institute Chair.
- d. Letter requests also sent to appropriate stakeholders from names and addresses provided by the Institutes and/or the Area Office.



## 2. Special grants for scientists and innovative ideas

- Approval of the Institute Chair.
- Up to ~~\$3,500~~ per request.

## 3. Landscaping grants

- Before beginning, have an approved landscape architectural design in place.
- Up to \$5,000 per new building for planting and plant materials.
- Request contributions of plant materials from nurseries that cooperated after the tornado as well as the National Arboretum.

## 4. Grants and awards to county science fair programs

- Prince Georges, Montgomery, Howard, and Ann Arundel Counties.
- Not to exceed \$500 per county.

## 5. Grants and awards for the Beltsville Invitational

- May be used for awards and set up.
- Not to exceed \$2,000.

## Grants and awards for BARC poster days

- May be used for tents and awards to students.
- Not to exceed \$2,000 per poster day.

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## **FAR-B SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -for consideration**

IDEAS - Basic idea based on discussion with Bob Wall on 1/17 & email from him on 1/18.

Outreach to: 1) Local community, 2) BARC scientists, 3) Science teachers, 4) encourage students to become acquainted with agricultural research

1. Provide annual scholarship to a HS senior that would provide some 1) financial plum, 2) connection with a lab & mentor at BARC, 3) Summer employment in that lab.

A. Student would be selected from a nearby HS - Beltsville, Laurel, Greenbelt, Bowie etc. OR ALTERNATIVELY - A student that has an interest in agriculture within the state of Maryland.

B. Committee to select the student would include people from BARC & HS Science teachers so that these two groups would become acquainted over time with each other as well as with FAR-B.

2. BARC labs would submit proposals as to what the scholarship recipient would do in the lab during this summer employment. The scholarship recipient would then select the lab that he/she would be working with. The selected lab would then receive funds to pay for the recipients summer work.

3. I would envision that each recipient would continue this involvement for the entire undergraduate program.

Other considerations:

Should this be tied to a specific college i.e. U of MDCP, Bowie State, community colleges?

If each scholarship had a value of \$2,500 for student and \$2,500 for lab = total of \$5,000 then in four years our outlay would be \$20,000 per year. Can we afford this? If not, what can we afford? Will the program generate sufficient additional contributions to fund it?

